

This proposal is a complete misunderstanding of the priorities of the American people. Americans want more jobs, more growth, and less debt. They do *not* want a wholesale evisceration of programs that help tens of millions of Americans achieve food security, decent housing, affordable health care, good schools, and efficient transportation networks. The American people understand that in these insecure economic times, government support is even more crucial to supporting hard-working individuals and their families.

Republican efforts to destroy these programs, end Medicare, and transfer those savings to the wealthiest of Americans and the biggest corporations through massive tax cuts, amounts to a repudiation of American values. Republicans can mask their slash-and-burn efforts as deficit reduction and job creation but the reality is that sending many more millions of Americans into unemployment and poverty will in the long run cost our nation more. Cutting subsidies for heating oil isn't going to make a noticeable difference in our deficit, but it *will* ensure that entire families stay cold during winter.

Eliminating EPA funding helps polluters, but it will also mean dirtier water, dirtier air, and worse health. Education cuts will mean less kids reading, less youth growing into the next generation of scientists and engineers, and less students going to college. And gutting Community Development Block Grants might save a few dollars and cents, but it will also leave senior citizens stuck in their homes for lack of transportation, our nation's youth won't have the opportunity to get important job training so they can join the workforce, and our local community parks will have to close. With this budget Republicans are very clear about their agenda: further enrich the wealthiest Americans at the expense of all the rest. Prioritize corporate special interests over families. End Medicare and leave people to fend for themselves. And if people lose their jobs, as Speaker Boehner recently said, 'So be it.' Fortunately these are not the priorities shared by the American people. Florida's counties, cities, schools, and families deserve their fair share of federal dollars, and I am not going to see their hopes and dreams taken away. I am fighting for the necessary federal resources for my district so that all of my constituents can get a job, achieve an education, live in decent housing, afford quality health care, and improve their lives.